

TOWN OF MANSFIELD
Solid Waste Advisory Committee
Minutes of the Meeting
January 8, 2015

Present: Knox, Ames, Coughlin, Noaris Burgos (guest), Walton (staff)

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 by chair Knox.

The November 13, 2014 meeting minutes were approved on a motion by Ames/Knox.

The committee reviewed the draft “Near Zero Waste” resolution and suggested a few modifications. With those changes made, members agreed that the resolution is ready to take to Town Council. Knox will be available to attend a March council meeting to support the resolution.

Planning for Rid Litter Day began. It was suggested to have it the Saturday after UConn’s spring weekend. Ideas included building a mountain of litter outside of the Town Hall on that day, invite the trash collector to come to display their truck, offer light refreshments and supplies for litter pickers, such as signs, clear bags, litter grabbers, change the name (to what?) and focus litter publicity on every owner cleaning up along their property. For the March meeting, the Adopt A Road (AAR) participant list will be divided up geographically. Members agreed to work on getting groups of people to collect litter on problematic roads. It was suggested that Walton bring the adopt-a-road map to other town functions. Walton will look into trash containers at Gurleyville and Chaffeeville Roads where the Nipmuck trail intersects and tends to attract trash.

Walton reported that six multi-family residences switched from recycle carts to recycle dumpsters. Recycle flyers have been provided to managers, who have been asked to send along to residents. Walton will begin monthly recycling inspections at these locations followed by a pilot of recycle bag for each unit at one of the apartments.

Recycling Coordinator’s report - Two Repair Cafés are scheduled - January 17 and April 18, 2015 from 10 am to 2 pm. Walton has not received any feedback from CT DEEP on the transfer station demonstration project application. Walton continues to manage the school compost piles on a regular basis. The town hall paper reduction pilot began with a webinar and survey. There was a 34% response to the survey with the majority of respondents already taking measures to reduce paper use and willing to take further action. The next steps are to change the copiers to a double-sided copy default and circulate two-minute tips. The organic land care workshops have been scheduled.- *Edible Landscaping* on Saturday, February 28, 2015, 10 am - 11 am (snow date March 7), *Organic Lawns* on Saturday, March 14, 2015, 10 am - 11:30 am (snow date March 21), *Rain Gardens/Rain Harvesting* on Saturday, March 28, 2015, 10 am - 11 am (snow date April 4), *Permaculture Gardens* on Saturday, April 11, 2015, 10 am - 11:30 am and *Backyard Composting* on Saturday, May 2, 2015, 10 am - 11 am.

Walton distributed information from the “Food Too Good To Waste” website. The website has tools for a food waste prevention challenge that targets households with school age children. The new Eastern Highland Health District Be Well coordinator is interested in working with Walton to present this challenge to the school PTOs.

The next meeting will be March 5, 2015 at 7:00 pm. The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Virginia Walton
Recycling/Refuse Coordinator